

Kelly, Joe

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Sculptors - K  
(Busts)



# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Joe Kelly

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

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## Lincoln bust moving to new home in Hanover Junction

CARL LINDQUIST *The York Dispatch*  
 York Dispatch

Article Last Updated: 07/19/2007 11:51:41 AM EDT

A bust of Abraham Lincoln is expected to go on display at the Hanover Junction railroad station, where the president changed trains on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

The bust sits on a pedestal and since 1981 has greeted visitors at the David Wills House in Gettysburg.

But the National Park Service, which owns the building, is renovating it and no longer wants the bust, said its sculptor, York City resident Joe Kelly. ←

Kelly approached county commissioners a few weeks ago in the hope the county would take ownership of the 71-inch-tall sculpture. Discussion about where it should go ensued, and county commissioners yesterday said the approximately one-ton sculpture would be displayed in the garden at Hanover Junction in North Codorus Township.

**Historical tie:** The site was chosen because of its connection to Lincoln, said Tom Brant, executive director of the county parks department.

The bust should be moved shortly, he said.

The Hanover Junction station was built between 1852 and 1854 as the connecting point for the Hanover Branch Railroad and the Northern Central Railway.

The Hanover line, completed in 1852, served Hanover and points west, while the Northern Central Railway ran from Baltimore to New York.

Today, the restored station is a stopping point along the Heritage Rail Trail County Park and has a museum with displays that include the story of an 1863 raid by the Virginia Cavalry. Lincoln changed trains at the station on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

**No cost:** The county should incur no cost to move the sculpture, Kelly said.

The National Park Service can transport it into York County free, and Eisenhart Crane Service has agreed to donate the time and materials to move the sculpture to its spot at Hanover Junction.

Commissioner Steve Chronister questioned why the Park Service wouldn't want the sculpture. The organization couldn't be reached for comment.

"It's a shame it can't stay in Gettysburg because that's where it belongs," he said.

But if it's coming to York County, it makes sense that the sculpture would be put at Hanover Junction, he said.

President Commissioner Lori Mitrick said York County is very fortunate to get the sculpture.

"To us, it's invaluable," she said. "I think it's a treasure all York countians will be able to enjoy."

-- Reach Carl Lindquist at 505-5432 or [clindquist@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:clindquist@yorkdispatch.com).





## Lincoln bust losing its Gettysburg address

**The piece, made by a York sculptor, will be moved to a garden on the rail trail.**

By TERESA ANN BOECKEL

Daily Record/Sunday News

York Daily Record/Sunday News

Article Launched:07/19/2007 07:06:26 AM EDT

Jul 19, 2007 — A bust of Abraham Lincoln that has stood in the doorway of the David Wills House in Gettysburg for more than two decades will be coming to York County.

The National Park Service, which is restoring the house, plans to use the York Street door where the statue once stood as an entrance to the museum it is creating, said Joe Kelly, the York sculptor who created the bust in 1981.

Lincoln slept in the Wills House the night before delivering his Gettysburg Address.

The park service had offered the statue, which was originally commissioned by the Lincoln Society for a few hundred dollars, to groups that were interested in it.

The stone statue, which will weather, is about 70 inches high and weighs nearly a ton.

Kelly contacted the York County commissioners a few weeks ago to see if they would be interested in it. They were.

"I think it's a treasure that all York countians will be able to enjoy," President Commissioner Lori Mitrick said.

Kelly had suggested placing the bust in front of the York County Administrative Center.

County officials thought it might be more appropriate to put it at Hanover Junction, the station where on Nov. 18, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln switched trains on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

The bust will be placed in a garden at the station along the Heritage Rail Trail County Park.

Tom Brant, executive director of the York County Parks, said he isn't sure how soon the bust will arrive.

Kelly said that the park service will provide transportation, and Eisenhart Crane Service LLC has offered to donate its services for setting the statue in the garden.

A spokesperson for the National Park Service could not be reached for comment.

"It's unfortunate that Gettysburg can't find a home for it, but from my perspective, I think it's a wonderful addition to York County's heritage," said Chuck Noll, the county's chief clerk/administrator.

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## Lincoln's bust will stay in Gettysburg

CARL LINDQUIST *The York Dispatch*  
York Dispatch

Article Last Updated:08/21/2007 11:23:14 AM EDT

The sculpture of Abraham Lincoln that York County officials hoped to display at Hanover Junction is instead staying in Gettysburg.

The National Park Service is planning to donate the 71-inch tall sculpture, which sat for more than 25 years in a doorway at the Wills House on Gettysburg's square, to the National Trust for Historic Gettysburg.

The Trust is going to display it in Adams County at the newly renovated and restored Lincoln Train Station, where Lincoln arrived before giving the Gettysburg Address.

York County officials last month decided they wanted to place the bust at Hanover Junction in North Codorus Township after its sculptor, York City resident Joe Kelly, said the National Park Service couldn't find a home for his work.

The Park Service no longer has a place for it because of renovations that are turning the Wills House into a museum, said Katie Lawhon, spokeswoman for Gettysburg National Military Park. The home is where Lincoln stayed the night before delivering the Gettysburg Address, and the sculpture was sitting in a doorway that will be used as a public entrance, Lawhon said.

The Park Service was considering giving it York County until the National Trust showed interest recently, Lawhon said. The Trust operates the Lincoln Train Station.

"We are working with them (the Trust) and unfortunately, the situation is that while we had a situation where the bust could go to York County, it is going to stay in Gettysburg," Lawhon said.

York County Commissioner Steve Chronister said he thought Hanover Junction -- where Lincoln changed trains en route to Gettysburg -- would have been the right spot for the sculpture if it were to come to York County.

But it belongs in Gettysburg, he said.

"I think Abraham Lincoln is tied more to Gettysburg than York," he said.

-- Reach Carl Lindquist at 505-5432 or [clindquist@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:clindquist@yorkdispatch.com).

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